

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTS OF
CHATTAHOOCHEE, HARRIS, MARION, MUSCOGEE, TALBOT AND TAYLOR COUNTIES
STATE OF GEORGIA

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* Ex Parte No. 2023-042

STANDING ORDER ON PARENTING SEMINARS

This Order revokes and replaces all previous orders and notice regarding Seminars for Divorcing Parents approved for us in domestic cases filed in the Superior Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Pursuant to the inherent powers of these Courts, Uniform Superior Court Rule 24.8, and in the interest of providing for the speedy, efficient, and inexpensive resolution of disputes, it is hereby ordered that:

1. All parties involved in any divorce, separate maintenance, legitimation, or any other domestic relations action that involved an initial determination or modification of child custody are required to successfully complete a court-approved, certificate bearing, parenting seminar. Failure to complete the seminar within the time period set forth in this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions, which may include suspension of visitation or custody rights.
2. A listing of all court approved seminar providers authorized under this Order is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". A copy of this Order and the attached Exhibit "A" shall be made available to filing parties, or their counsel, by the Clerk of Superior Court of the county in which the action is filed.
3. The filing party, or his or her counsel, shall serve a copy of this Order and the attached listing of all court approved seminar providers upon each adverse party along with the underlying domestic pleading and summons.
4. Each party must successfully complete a court approved seminar within 31 days of service of the original complaint upon the defendant and the certificate must be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court before finalization.
5. In the event a party resides outside of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, that party may petition the Court to accept a certificate of completion from a parenting seminar that is not on the court approved list by providing a written verification that the seminar meets the following minimum requirements:
 - a. The seminar shall focus on the effects of divorce on children, specifically as it relates to the parents' actions during and after the separation, and as it relates to the children at different developmental stages. Specific attention should be given to the effects of the economics of divorce on children.

- b. The program offering the seminar shall have a procedure for fee waivers in cases in indigent parties.
 - c. The program offering the seminar shall be non-profit.
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- 6. The parties may attend a seminar on different dates. In those cases where there have been allegations of domestic violence, the parties must attend seminars on different dates.
 - 7. Certificate of completion is valid for three years.
 - 8. Parties are responsible for paying their own registration fees for the seminar. Fees are to be paid directly to the seminar provider.
 - 9. For good cause shown, the assigned Judge may waive the parenting seminar requirement, extend the time period for its completion, or require its repetition.
 - 10. Failure to comply with this Order may subject a party to contempt or other sanctions as the assigned Judge may deem appropriate.

SO ORDERED, this 1st day of February, 2023.



Arthur L. Smith, III, Chief Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



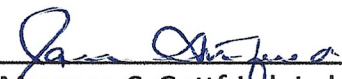
Bobby G. Peters, Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Bemon G. McBride, III, Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



J. Ronald Mullins, Jr., Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Maureen C. Gottfried, Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



John Martin, Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



Benjamin S. Richardson, Judge
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit

EXHIBIT "A"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
CHATTAHOOCHEE, HARRIS, MARION, MUSCOGEE, TALBOT AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

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Ex Parte No. _____

COURT APPROVED PARENTING SEMINAR PROVIDERS

The Family Center, Inc.
1350 15th Avenue
Columbus, GA 31902
706-327-3238

Family Counseling Center of Georgia, Inc.
277 MLK, Jr. Boulevard West, Suite 203
Macon, GA 31201
478-745-2811

Project Rebound, Inc.
1130 Brown Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906
706-221-4830

ONLINE PARENTING PROGRAMS
www.onlineparentingprograms.com
Online Co-parenting/Divorce Class
4-hour online class